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It is generous in Thomas Fortune Ryan to forgive the democratic leaders for the rebuke administered to him by the Baltimore convention, but possibly the leaders whom he has forgiven are not the ones who administered the rebuke.

THE BLIGHT OF "SENIORITY"

The democratic party is going to have another struggle in both senate and house over the committee assignments, and it is again threatened with the blight of seniority—that is, it will be asked to put the ambitions and interests of individuals above the welfare of the party and the good of the country. The rule of seniority requires that when a man is once put upon a committee he shall be permitted to stay there until he voluntarily withdraws, and he must be promoted as fast as those above him fall out. It entirely disregards the spirit of democracy and violates the fundamental principles of representative government.

Take the United States senate, for instance. The democrats in the senate were, until two years ago, largely of the reactionary type—reactionaries were in charge of all the important positions allotted to the democrats. As a result of the democratic victory of 1910 a number of new democrats entered the senate—nearly all of them progressives. The reactionaries insisted on retaining the leadership, although it was apparent that the democracy of

the country was progressive. The democratic victory of 1912 brings in another group of new democrats—all of them progressives.

The progressive democrats will now be in the majority in the senate caucus. Will they allow a reactionary minority to man the ship? Will they allow length of service to outweigh sympathy with the progressive cause?

If it were a personal matter the new senators might prefer to yield to the older ones but a man who acts in a representative capacity is not at liberty to be courteous at the expense of his constituents. The democrats of the senate owe it to the party to make the senate organization represent the prevailing sentiment of the party and thus enable it to work in harmony with the administration. To do this the rule of seniority should be ignored. Assignments to committees should be made upon the basis of fitness and with a view to giving faithful expression to the will of the majority. No democrat is deserving of preferment who puts his personal interests above the general welfare. If our party is to earn a long lease of power it must regard the rights of the people as paramount.

The same rule ought to be applied in the house. THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO

SELECT COMMITTEES SHOULD BE MADE UP TO SUIT THE NEW CONGRESS. There is no good reason why hold-overs on the ways and means committee should consider themselves entitled, AS A MATTER OF RIGHT, to appointment on the new committee. The democratic caucus should feel free to select this committee without regard to its present membership—just as free as if the committee was being selected for the first time and from members entering upon their first term. If a new congress is to be bound by the committee selections made by a former congress, the change in the rules will prove of doubtful advantage. If the rule of seniority is to be invoked in behalf of the re-appointment of those now on the committee the selection of committees should be entrusted to a special committee whose existence will cease when its work is done; and whether the right to recommend members for the various committees is conferred on the ways and means committee or upon a special committee, chosen for the purpose, the caucus should feel free to reject any recommendations made.

The democratic party is pledged to the doctrine of representative government—the doctrine of seniority is destructive of both the theory and the practice of representative government.

TOO MUCH POWER

Referring to Woodrow Wilson's notice to Wall street, the Denver Times says: "This sounds plausible, but it will not do. A little over five years ago a 'bankers' panic' was forced upon the nation as a lesson to Roosevelt and the gentle reader may remember what took place. Overnight the overlord of the banking world, J. Pierpont Morgan, was transmuted into a hero, and more than Wall street acclaimed him the savior of the republic; and, incidentally, it may be stated that Mr. Morgan has believed himself the salvation of the nation a good many times in the last forty years. When a panic comes the people forget their good resolutions, and banker and broker and bank depositor will seek cover with the politician. Equally as courageous a man as Mr. Wilson under stress of circumstances made terms with the enemy and helped to end the panic five years ago. We have reference to Colonel Roosevelt. Testimony from the money trust committee at Washington these days is sufficient to cause mathematicians and star-gazers to hold their heads in wonderment, to say nothing of the plain citizen who can not think in billions."

On the same line the Omaha Bee says:

"President-elect Wilson's warning of a gibbet higher than Haman's for the king of commerce using his power to precipitate an artificial panic during his administration is very interesting. Haman, it will be remembered, was the man who built the gibbet for King Ahasuerus from which the melancholy Mordecai was to swing, and if Mordecai's comely adopted daughter, Esther, had not found such marked favor in the eyes of the king it might have been even as planned, but, lo, it fell out that Mordecai lived and Haman died. The president-elect says he fears nothing and nobody. That is all right, but he will find a few kings to deal with quite as regnant in certain spheres as was this one who ruled from India unto Ethiopia and brooked defiance not even from his own queen. And what is more, these Wall street sovereigns are not blown by the fickle winds of emotion from Vashti's to Hadassah's."

If the situation is as bad as these papers describe it then it is certainly time for another Andrew Jackson. If the money trust has all the power these newspapers say it has, then it has altogether too much power. For the reason that Americans believe it has too much power and uses it against the public interests they are sending to Woodrow Wilson and to the men who are honestly investigating the money trust words of encouragement.

THE MONEY TRUST

The testimony now being given before the Pujo committee will open the eyes of those who have regarded the "money trust" as a myth and the criticism of it as the "mouthing of demagogues." The witnesses, many of them reluctant ones, are forced to admit the existence of a condition which shocks the moral sense of the country. If the terrorized business men of New York are unable to break the hold of this tyrannical combination they ought to be grateful to the people outside for the release that is sure to come as a result of the investigation. The people will not, when the facts are known, tolerate a continuation of the blackhand methods by which the big financiers have dominated the business world; neither will they allow a few

hundred stock brokers to prolong their saturnalian feast at the expense of the public. Progressiveness includes legislation which will protect the public from both the pirates and the gamblers of Wall street.

SAVING SENSE OF HUMOR

Governor Wilson seems to have something of Lincoln's sense of humor. He often illustrates his ideas with a story. He was recently quoted as follows, in discussing cabinet positions:

"With respect to his cabinet, Governor Wilson said he had not made any final selections. At no time in his conversations with the correspondents who have been traveling with him constantly has he mentioned the name of a single individual as a possibility for his cabinet.

"Governor Wilson said he realized that before deciding upon the personnel of his cabinet he would have to determine just what type of cabinet he would form. He recognizes two types from a review of the manner in which his predecessors have met this question.

"One type is the political cabinet constructed from party material that must in a sense be regarded to preserve party harmony. The other is characterized by Mr. Wilson as the personal cabinet, made up of men whose business fitness is known to him personally and on whose judgment he would like to lean.

"Carefully steering the correspondents away from all questions of personnel, Governor Wilson also declined to say which type of cabinet he now prefers. He said he had written some years ago a magazine article criticising President Cleveland's cabinets, but he had not specifically asked President Cleveland which type he had found the most desirable.

"The two types of cabinet,' he said, 'remind me of a question I was once discussing with Dr. James McCosh, president of Princeton in the late 80's. We were speaking of the two types of teachers—the one who tried to reach the average intelligence of the class and the other, who catered to the most intelligent and let the rank and file get along as best they could. I asked Dr. McCosh which he liked the better. 'Oh,' he said, 'we need a little of both.'"

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